

**THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION**  
**THE FA CUP, THE FA TROPHY, THE FA VASE AND THE FA YOUTH CUP**  
**SEASON 2021-22**

---

**ENTRY CRITERIA**

**THE FA CUP**

- Clubs to be automatically accepted subject to the ground fully conforming to the minimum standard:
- Clubs in The Premier League, English Football League and in Steps 1, 2, 3 & 4 of The FA National League System.
  - Clubs must also be a participant in either The FA Trophy or The FA Vase Competitions in season 2021-22. *(Not applicable for PL & EFL Clubs)*

***A Club participating at Step 5 or 6 of The FA National League System in season 2020-21, or that has applied for entry into Step 6 or higher of The FA NLS for season 2021-22, shall be permitted to apply for entry. However, acceptance into the Competition will be subject to availability of places, which cannot be guaranteed.***

**THE FA TROPHY**

- Entry is restricted to Clubs participating in Steps 1-4 of The FA National League System subject to the ground fully conforming to the minimum standard.

***A Club moving between Step 4 and 5 of The FA National League System will be moved accordingly by The FA between The FA Trophy and The FA Vase Competitions.***

**THE FA VASE**

- Clubs to be automatically accepted subject to the ground fully conforming to the minimum standard:
- Clubs in Steps 5 & 6 of The FA National League System

***A Club participating below Step 6 of The FA National League System in season 2020-21 shall only be permitted to apply for entry if it has applied for promotion to Step 6 for season 2021-22. However, acceptance into the Competition will be subject to such Club receiving promotion to Step 6 for season 2021-22.***

**THE FA YOUTH CUP**

- Clubs to be automatically accepted subject to the ground fully conforming to the minimum standard:
- Clubs participating in The FA Cup, The FA Trophy or The FA Vase in season 2021-22.
  - Clubs participating in a recognized Youth League or suitable Competition in season 2021-22 that is sanctioned by The Association or an affiliated Association.
  - Youth Teams representing a Club must be properly integrated, in the opinion of The Association, with the Club.

---

**MINIMUM GROUND STANDARDS**

**THE FA CUP**

Clubs must have a ground where all home first team League matches are played, which fully conforms to a "G" grade of The FA National Ground Grading (appropriate to Step 6 of The FA National League System) or higher.

**THE FA VASE**

Clubs must have a ground where all home first team League matches are played, which fully conforms to a "H" grade of The FA National Ground Grading (appropriate to entry to Step 6 of The FA National League System) or higher.

***Any Club with a ground which does not fully conform to the minimum ground standard, as referenced above, WILL NOT be permitted entry into a Competition by nominating an alternative ground solely for the purpose of being used in FA Competitions.***

Details of The FA National Ground Grading requirements can be found under the following link <http://www.thefa.com/get-involved/player/clubs-leagues/ground-grading>